



## **MINUTES**

### **SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**January 17, 2012**

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in West Conference Room, 456 W. Olive Ave. at 7:00 p.m. with Chair Sue Harrison presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Chair Sue Harrison  
Vice Chair Regina Wheeler  
Commissioner Gerry Glaser  
Commissioner Amit Srivastava  
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern  
Commissioner Dan Hafeman  
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services  
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Program Division Manager  
Lorrie Gervin, WPC Division Manager  
Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

#### **GUEST PRESENT**

Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius  
Mary Tucker, Energy Programs Manager, City of San Jose

#### **SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

Mary Tucker, Energy Programs Manager for the City of San Jose, provided a presentation to the Commission on San Jose's process for investigating the feasibility of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program in San Jose. CCA programs are a mechanism for any city, county or city and county to aggregate the electric loads of residents, businesses and municipal facilities to facilitate the purchase and sale of electrical energy. In general, the electricity comes from renewable sources. The presentation provided an overview of the issues integral to forming a CCA, San Jose's goals and efforts researching CCA feasibility and an example of a CCA program currently implemented in Marin County.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Commissioner Green-Heffern moved to approve the November 21, 2011 meeting minutes with no changes. Commissioner Hafeman seconded.**

**No discussion.**

**VOTE 7-0 (Motion carried unanimously)**

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing for comments.

There were no public comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Review of Council Legislative Advocacy Position 2012 Priority Issues

The Commission had the opportunity to review Report to Council 12-009 Proposed Update to Policy 7.3.2 Including 2012 Priority Issues and Legislative Advocacy Positions, which is going to Council February 7<sup>th</sup>. During the review, several Commissioners commended the action the City is taking to consolidate issues and policies to keep the policy up to date. As a result of the review, Commissioners took action on issues they found missing in the current policy.

The first action taken by the Commission was a motion offered by Commissioner Green-Heffern. Referring to Attachment B, page 1 of the report, Commissioner Green-Heffern commented on item 1 -1.1 (14) Support for Caltrain electrification. Discussion was that the City should advocate for electrification regardless of high speed rail. The Commission felt that the position as stated may hinder support for Caltrain electrification due to the dependency on inclusion of high speed rail. The Commission felt that high speed rail may not materialize and therefore stall plans for electrification.

No members of the public were present to comment.

**MOTION: Commissioner Green-Heffern moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to recommend Sunnyvale supports pursuit of Caltrain electrification, irrespective of high speed rail moving forward, through the existing Joint Powers Authority organization.**

**VOTE 7-0 (Motion carried unanimously)**

The second action taken by the Commission was a motion offered by Commissioner Glaser. Referring to Attachment A, page 8 of the report, Commissioner Glaser commented on item 1-1.1 (1) Bus Rapid Transit and city interests. Commissioner Glaser commented there is a problem at the consumer level due to the fact that consumers must check each transit agency to see if one can get from point A to point B and the cost associated with each one. Commissioner Glaser wanted to see item 1-1.1 (1) expanded to say that the City should advocate efforts to create a holistic and transparent approach for public transit services such that consumer options are transparent. An example provided was that of the Clipper card that can be used on multiple transit options, but can be inconvenient. Commissioner Harrison indicated that the stated policy should go beyond monitor to indicate support. Commissioner Fukumoto noted that 511.org does provide information and is a resource for consumers to identify commute alternatives.

No members of the public were present to comment.

**MOTION: Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to recommend Sunnyvale support (rather than monitor) the El Camino Real Bus Rapid Transit project conceptual engineering and environmental analysis to ensure that the City's interests are addressed and advocate for a holistic approach that provides a sense of integrating the transportation system such that it is transparent to the consumer.**

**VOTE: 6-0-1 (Commissioner Srivastava Abstained- No Comment)**

The third action taken by the Commission was a motion offered by Commissioner Hafeman. Referring to Attachment A, page 8 of the report, Commissioner Hafeman commented on item 1-1.1 (1) regarding El Camino Real (ECR) Bus Rapid Transit and city interests. Commissioner Hafeman indicated that because this issue addresses El Camino Real, it could also be used to advocate for reduced speed limits on El Camino Real. He offered is that reduction of the speed limit on ECR would make bicycling safer and encourages additional bicycle commuting.

No members of the public were present to comment.

**MOTION: Commissioner Hafeman moved and Commissioner Glaser seconded a motion for Sunnyvale to advocate a reduction of the speed limit to 35 miles per hour on El Camino Real consistent with the rest of the boulevard to encourage biking and safety for bikers.**

**VOTE: 6-0-1 (Commissioner Wheeler Abstained. Commissioner Wheeler abstained because she was not sure whether the City could actually comment on speed limits on El Camino Real since the speed limit on El Camino Real is not set by the City.)**

The fourth action taken by the Commission was a motion offered by Commissioner Harrison. Referring to page 5, Attachment A, regarding State Senate Bill 375 (SB 375). Commissioner Harrison commented it would be worthwhile for the City to create incentives to assist in the achieving SB 375 compliance.

**MOTION: Commissioner Harrison moved and Commissioner Fukumoto seconded a motion that the Sustainability Commission enthusiastically supports creating specified incentives for implementing identified strategies and strongly advocates constructive progress to attain the intent of and comply whole-heartedly with SB 375.**

**VOTE: 7-0 (Motion carried unanimously)**

## 2. Green Cities California Membership

The Commission discussed whether or not to recommend applying for membership in Green Cities California. Green Cities California (GCC) is a coalition of local governments that have implemented groundbreaking environmental policies. Pre-requisites for membership include the adoption of 1) a local sustainability plan, 2) the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, and 3) the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Sunnyvale has achieved two of the three criteria for membership.

Commissioner Glaser commented on his motion indicating support for adoption of the Urban environmental accords because it supports directly the initiatives that are listed in the City's Climate Action Plan and the changes in the General Plan in the areas of transportation. Commissioner Glaser said that with the adoption of the Accords and eventual joining of GCC that a set of metrics would eventually occur that says we measure our city's this way and here are the 15 measures for Sunnyvale and would even like to see Sunnyvale's metrics be stronger than the Urban Environmental Accords over time.

No members of the public were present to comment.

**MOTION: Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Fukumoto seconded a motion to recommend Council adopt the Urban Environmental Accords.**

**VOTE: 7-0 (Motion carried unanimously)**

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

- Commissioners Oral Comments

Commissioner Fukumoto announced that the City was hosting an Energy Upgrade California Homeowners Workshop Thursday, January 19 at the Community Center to provide homeowners information on incentives available for home energy efficiency improvements.

Commissioner Fukumoto announced that there will be a Safe Routes to School Workshop January 31 from 8:00-2:00 p.m. at 1400 Parkmoor Avenue that will include nationally recognized speakers.

Commissioner Hafeman commented on a resolution passed by the City of Los Angeles to support the Move to Amend constitutional amendment based on the Supreme Court case referred to as Citizens United. Commissioner Hafeman feels it is an important issue to be

aware of due to the implications to environmental progress and sustainability if opposed by corporations directly funding politicians, possibly at the local level. Commissioner Hafeman would encourage Sunnyvale to look into this issue.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

Urban Environmental Accords

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services  
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Program Division Manager